

THE PIANO LESSON

August Wilson

Name: _____

Period: _____

Act 1

In an article entitled “Derrick Sanders: Words First” written by Jonathan Abarbanel, director Derrick Sanders talks about directing an August Wilson play:

Some actors, even directors and audience members, come in with an idea of what an August Wilson play is, an idea of what the characters are, [Sanders] says. “But these characters aren’t southern blues archetypes – they are grounded, individual characters, and you have to take them that way. You can’t start off with a mindset that they are archetypes that exist throughout black culture – although there are elements of that, because the cultural aesthetic demands it. But August has already done that part in the language. In directing a Wilson play, Sanders asks his cast to act simply and begin by just saying the words. “It’s like any great writer who writes in a rhythmic pattern – Mamet, Shakespeare. **If you trust the language, then characters will come out – the beats will reveal themselves. And the heart and the love and the pain of the characters will manifest itself, even more so than if you think that you’re smarter than the writers or smarter than what he’s put down on the page. I’m kind of a purist in that sense. With Mamet and Shaw and August Wilson . . . you’re getting it all on the page. You have to trust the language.”**

	SIMPLE IDENTIFICATION	FROM THE TEXT . . .	WHAT IS AT HIS/HER “HEART”?	WHAT IS HIS/ HER LOVE?	WHAT IS HIS/HER PAIN?
Doaker					
Boy Willie					
Lymon					
Berniece					